

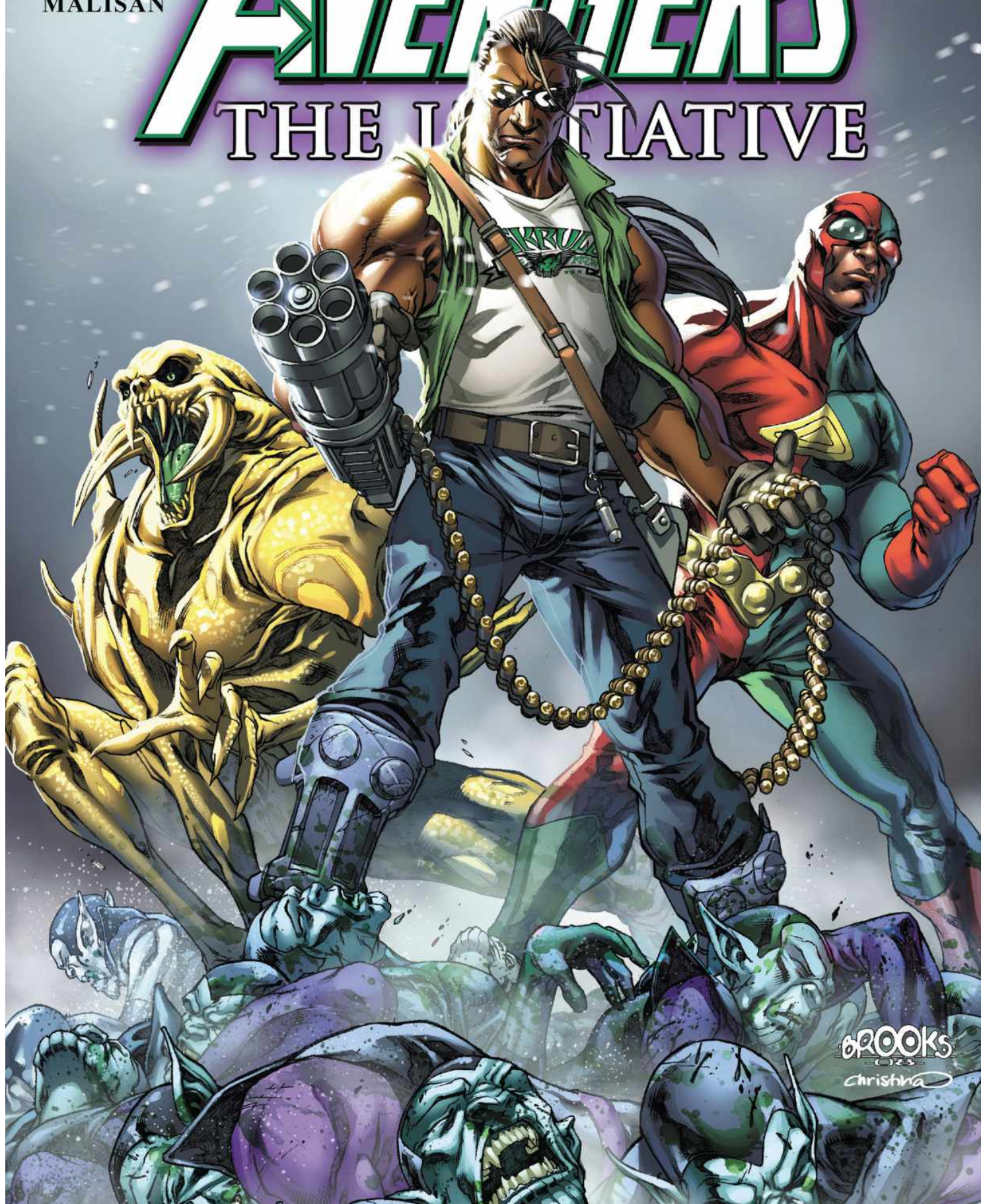
MARVEL
16 .com

SLOTT
GAGE
CASELLI
MALISAN

SECRET INVASION

AVENGERS

THE INITIATIVE



BROOKS
CHRISTINA

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AFTER STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS DESTROYED DURING A TELEVISED FIGHT BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND A GROUP OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS, A FEDERAL SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WAS PASSED. ALL INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES MUST NOW REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE HAS SET IN MOTION THE INITIATIVE, A PLAN FOR TRAINING AND POLICING SUPER HEROES IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD, INTENDED TO POSITION A LOCAL SUPER HERO TEAM IN EACH OF AMERICA'S FIFTY STATES.

STAFF



YELLOWJACKET
DIRECTOR



WAR MACHINE



TRAUMA



PHYSIQUE



BARON VON
BLITZSCHLAG

GRADUATES



3-D MAN



KOMODO



ANT-MAN



CRUSADER



PROTON

CADETS

SECRET INVASION

The newest recruits of Camp Hammond have taken the base, butting heads with their instructors and learning the ropes. They'd better learn fast, though, as Earth is under siege — the shape-shifting Skrulls have infiltrated our world with their eyes on taking Earth as their own! They've sent spies into every facet of Earth's defenses, including the Initiative itself.

Hank Pym, a.k.a. Yellowjacket, has been replaced by a Skrull, and for months he's been using his position to seed Skrull agents into every Initiative team across the country. Little does he know, he might have been found out by one of the Initiative's new cadets, Crusader, a Skrull ex-patriot.

Meanwhile, recent graduate 3-D Man has found out about the Skrull invasion — but his goggles will only reveal humans as Skrulls to his eyes, and he can't do anything to prove it! Unable to stay at Camp Hammond, he commandeers a Quinjet to gather reinforcements...but the Skrulls disable all StarkTech (taking out War Machine back on the base in the process), and the jet crashes in the desert.

3-D Man had better hope no Skrulls have figured out what he knows, or escaping from a deadly plane crash will be the least of his problems.

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

New Mexico.

SHE-THING
TO BASE.

REPEAT, THIS
IS SHE-THING
CALLING THE
MAVERICKS.

THAT
WASN'T JUST
A PLANE THAT
CRASHED--
IT WAS A
QUINJET.

MUST'VE
GONE DOWN
WHEN ALL THE
STARKTECH
FAILED.

ARE
YOUR
SYSTEMS UP
AND RUNNING
YET, J?

J?
COME
IN, J...

IF ANYONE'S
LISTENING, I'M
GOING TO LOOK
FOR SURVIVORS.
SHE-THING
OUT.

I DON'T
RECOGNIZE
THIS ONE.

SCANNER
IDENTIFIES HER
AS SHARON VENTURA,
A.K.A. THE SHE-THING,
FORMERLY OF THE FANTASTIC
FOUR. CURRENTLY A
MEMBER OF NEW MEXICO'S
INITIATIVE TEAM, THE
MAVERICKS.

HELLO?
CAN ANYBODY
HEAR ME?





SKRULL!
YOU'RE A
FREAKING
SKRULL!



I-I DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
SAW THROUGH
MY DISGUISE,
EARTHLING...

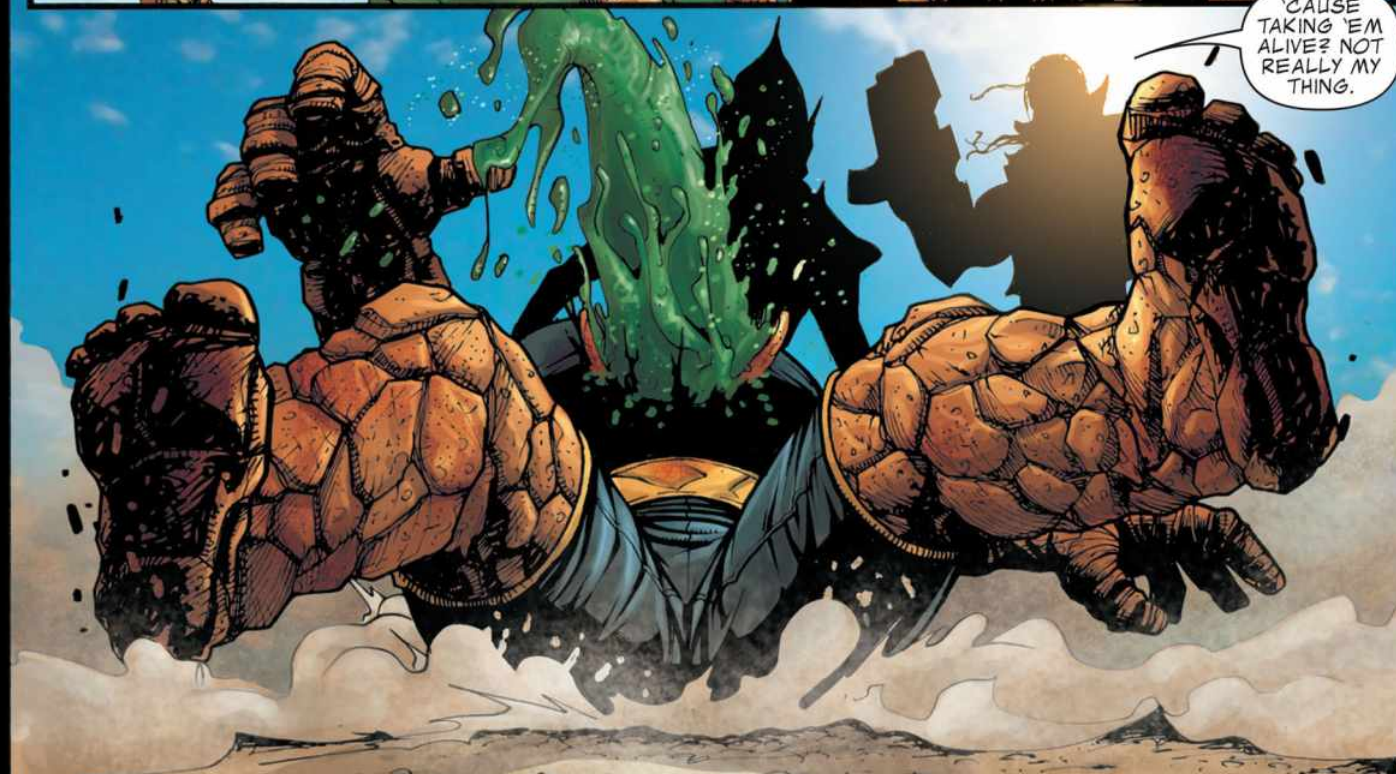


...BUT I
ASSURE YOU,
IT'S THE LAST
THING YOU'LL
EVER--



IT SURE
HELPS WHEN
THESE GREEN-
BLOODED
*%@\$ DROP
THE ACT.

KCHOOOM



CAUSE
TAKING 'EM
ALIVE? NOT
REALLY MY
THING.

Minutes
Later...

SKRULL-€%#DEERS!

SO,
HOW COULD
YOU TELL
SHE WAS A
SKRULL?

I'M 3-D
MAN. THAT'S
WHAT I
DO.

YEAH?
WELL, FROM
NOW ON YOU
CAN DO IT
FOR US.

WELCOME
ABOARD, KID. YOU
JUST JOINED THE



DAN SLOTT &
CHRISTOS N. GAGE
WRITERS

STEFANO
CASELLI
ARTIST

LUCA
MALISAN
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

JEANINE
SCHAEFER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM
BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

SPLTCH



SO, RYDER, LET ME MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND THIS. YOU'RE A HOME-GROWN, EARTH-BASED MILITIA DEDICATED TO REPELLING SKRULLS?

NOT REPELLING. KILLING. HENCE THE NAME. SKRULL. KILL. KREW.

ASK ME, I THINK WE SHOULD CHANGE IT. SOMETHING MORE hardcore. LIKE FROM NOW ON...WE'RE THE SKRULL-
*#@%-ERS!

SKRULL. KILL. KREW.

WHATEVER.

WHRRR



HEY, IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?



ZZZAW



EHHH!



ABSO-FRICKIN-LUTELY. THESE ARE A NEW BREED OF SUPER-SKRULLS. HARDER TO I.D. MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. WE DON'T TAKE CHANCES, RIGHT, RIOT?

PLUS, IT'S GOOD FOR MY MOTOR SKILLS.



FOR YEARS WE WORRIED THAT THEY'D WORKED THEIR WAY INSIDE THE HERO COMMUNITY. THANKS TO YOU, WE KNOW.

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT NOW? WHO CAN WE TRUST?



NOT THE INITIATIVE, THAT'S FOR SURE. BUT I KNOW SOMEWHERE WE CAN GO, IF YOU PROMISE TO BEHAVE.

WHY'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME? WHAT? I GOT SOMETHING ON MY TEETH?

Camp Hammond. Subbasement 9.

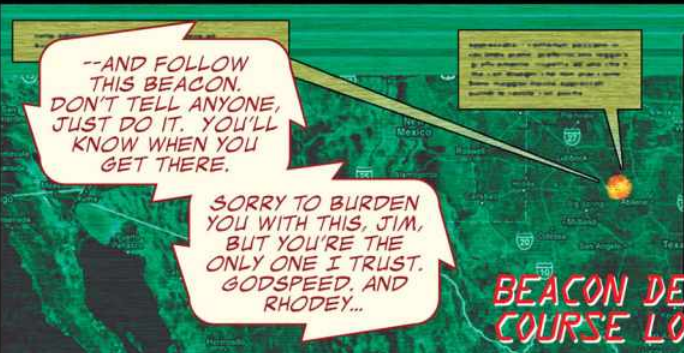




THIS MESSAGE WAS ACTIVATED BY A GLOBAL STARKTECH SYSTEMS FAILURE. IF YOU'RE SEEING IT, IT PROBABLY MEANS I'M DEAD.

MY VOICE IS FED DIRECTLY INTO YOUR EARDRUM. ONLY YOU CAN HEAR ME. TRUST NO ONE, JIM.

WE'RE FACING AN OMEGA LEVEL THREAT. YOU COULD BE EARTH'S ONLY HOPE. WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT, YOU HAVE TO DROP IT--



--AND FOLLOW THIS BEACON. DON'T TELL ANYONE, JUST DO IT. YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE.

SORRY TO BURDEN YOU WITH THIS, JIM, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I TRUST. GODSPEED. AND RHODEY...

**BEACON DETECTED.
COURSE LOCKED.**



...AVENGE ME.



WHAT DID HE SAY? I CAN'T HEAR A THING.

IS THAT TONY? IS HE ALL RIGHT?

"HELP, ME, OBI-WAN, YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE."

VAS?

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN STAR WARS? THE GREATEST MOVIE OF ALL TIME? WHAT WERE YOU, LIVING IN A CAVE?

POSSIBLY A BUNKER.



DAMN IT, RHODEY, TELL ME WHAT HE SAID!

I HAVE TO GO.



Los Alamos. Home Of Hal And Peggy Chandler

...I HATE TO INVOLVE YOU. BUT YOU HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH SKRULLS THAN ANYONE, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN.

DON'T APOLOGIZE, DELROY. YOU'LL NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET AGAINST THOSE LOUSY ALIENS.

WE'LL DO WHATEVER WE CAN. I'M NOT MUCH GOOD IN A FIGHT AT MY AGE, BUT CHUCK--

I'D NEVER ASK THAT OF EITHER OF YOU. BUT THERE'S A LOT YOU CAN DO FROM RIGHT HERE--ESPECIALLY IF YOU'VE GOT A GAS GENERATOR AND YOUR EQUIPMENT FROM THE '50'S.

WE STILL HAVE HAM RADIOS DOWN IN THE BOMB SHELTER. BUT I THOUGHT THAT STUFF WAS OBSOLETE.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE NEED IT. THE SKRULLS HAVE KNOCKED OUT ALL THE STARKTECH IN THE WORLD--AND THERE ISN'T MUCH MODERN TECHNOLOGY THAT DOESN'T USE SOME.

THAT EXPLAINS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR STOVE, AND ALL THE POWER.

MR. RYDER, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND CHECK ON THE BARBEQUE?

MY PLEASURE, MA'AM.

'SCUSE ME IF I SEEM SUSPICIOUS, BUT...WELL, I AM.

HOW IS IT YOU FOLKS KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT SKRULLS?

WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING THOSE SLIMY PUNKS FOR FIFTY YEARS, THAT'S HOW.

"I WAS A FIGHTER JOCK FOR UNCLE SAM, PULLING DOUBLE DUTY WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL PLANE AND A TEMPERATURE REGULATING FLIGHT SUIT.

"I EXPECTED THE COMMIES TO MAKE A PLAY FOR IT...NOT GREEN MEN FROM

"I GAVE 'EM THE SLIP AND BLEW THEIR SAUCER TO KINGDOM COME. BUT THERE MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING



"--I WENT UP LIKE AN A-BOMB. FIGURED I'D BOUGHT THE FARM.



"NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M STUCK IN HAL'S GLASSES. I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS... TRY LIVIN' IT!"



"WHEN HAL CONCENTRATED, I'D POP OUT AS THE 3-D MAN, WITH THE STRENGTH, SPEED AND STAMINA OF THREE MEN.

"NOT TO MENTION THE ABILITY TO SEE SKRULLS--NO MATTER WHAT THEY DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS--AND GIVE 'EM WHAT FOR!"



AS FOR ME, I MET UP WITH A GROUP CALLED THE TRIUNES WHO TRANSFERRED THE ORIGINAL TRI-FORCE ENERGY INTO ME. NOW I CARRY ON CHUCK AND HAL'S FIGHT.

SO THAT'S IT... HOW'D YOU TWO BECOME THE, UH, KILL KREW?



BACK WHEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR FIRST STARTED OUT, THEY CAUGHT A BUNCHA SKRULL INFILTRATORS.

NO PRISON COULD HOLD 'EM, SO REED RICHARDS HYPNOTIZED THEM--INTO THINKING THEY WERE COWS.



SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, THE COWS GOT SLAUGHTERED, CHOPPED INTO MEAT...

...AND PUT INTO AMERICA'S FAST FOOD.



SOME OF THE FOLKS WHO ATE THE SKRULL-BURGERS GOT SHAPE-CHANGING POWERS.

OH YEAH, AND A DISEASE THAT SLOWLY KILLED 'EM. THINK MAD COW ON ACID.



IT KILLED OUR FRIENDS MOONSTOMP, DICE, AND CATWALK. IT'S WHY I'M STUCK LOOKING LIKE THIS. BUT Y'KNOW WHAT? IT WAS WORTH IT.



'CAUSE EVER SINCE WE ATE THAT MEAT, WE COULD SEE ALL THE SKRULLS HIDING ON EARTH...AND KILL 'EM!



THEN THESE NEW SKRULLS CAME ALONG. AND WE'VE ONLY FOUND ONE WAY TO DETECT THEM.



LORD HAVE MERCY.

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT IN ORDER TO SEE THESE NEW SKRULLS, YOU HAVE TO... EAT ONE OF 'EM FIRST?

WELL, WE DID. UNTIL WE FOUND 3-D MAN AND HIS MAGIC SPECS.



NOW WE JUST DO IT 'CAUSE WE LIKE THE TASTE.



THAT'S... DISGUSTING!



YEAH, GUESS WHAT? THAT'S WAR.



Times Square.

SKRULLS ARE THE BEST! WE ARE THE BEST!

MY HEAD... CAN'T FOCUS. DID THAT COMMANDER JUST GIVE THE KILL ORDER FOR--



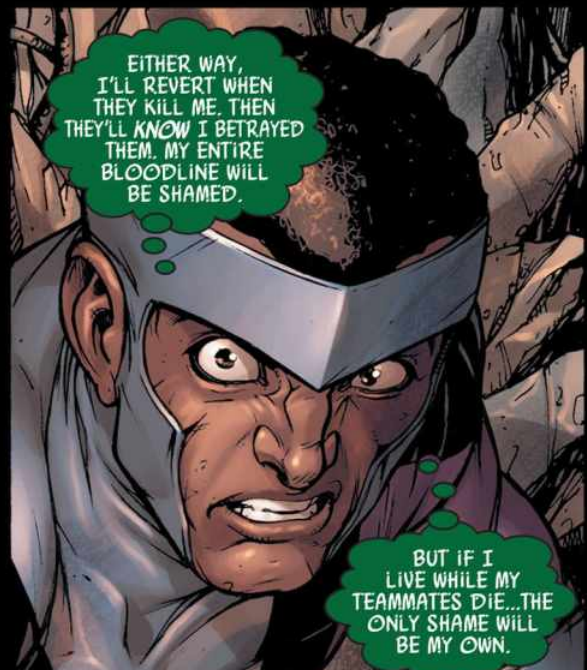
KRAAZZT!

PROTON!!



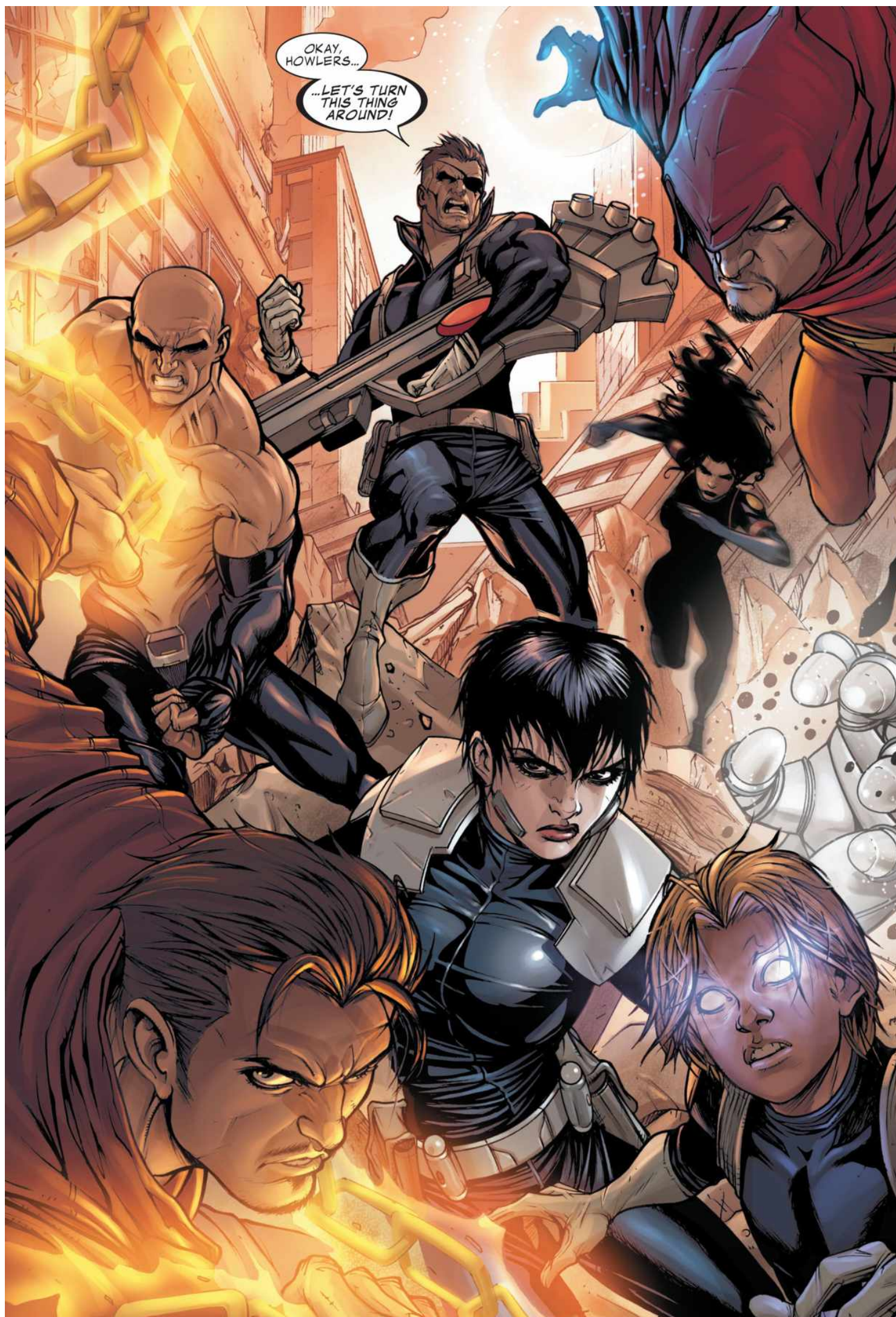
THEY'RE GOING TO EXECUTE ALL OF US!

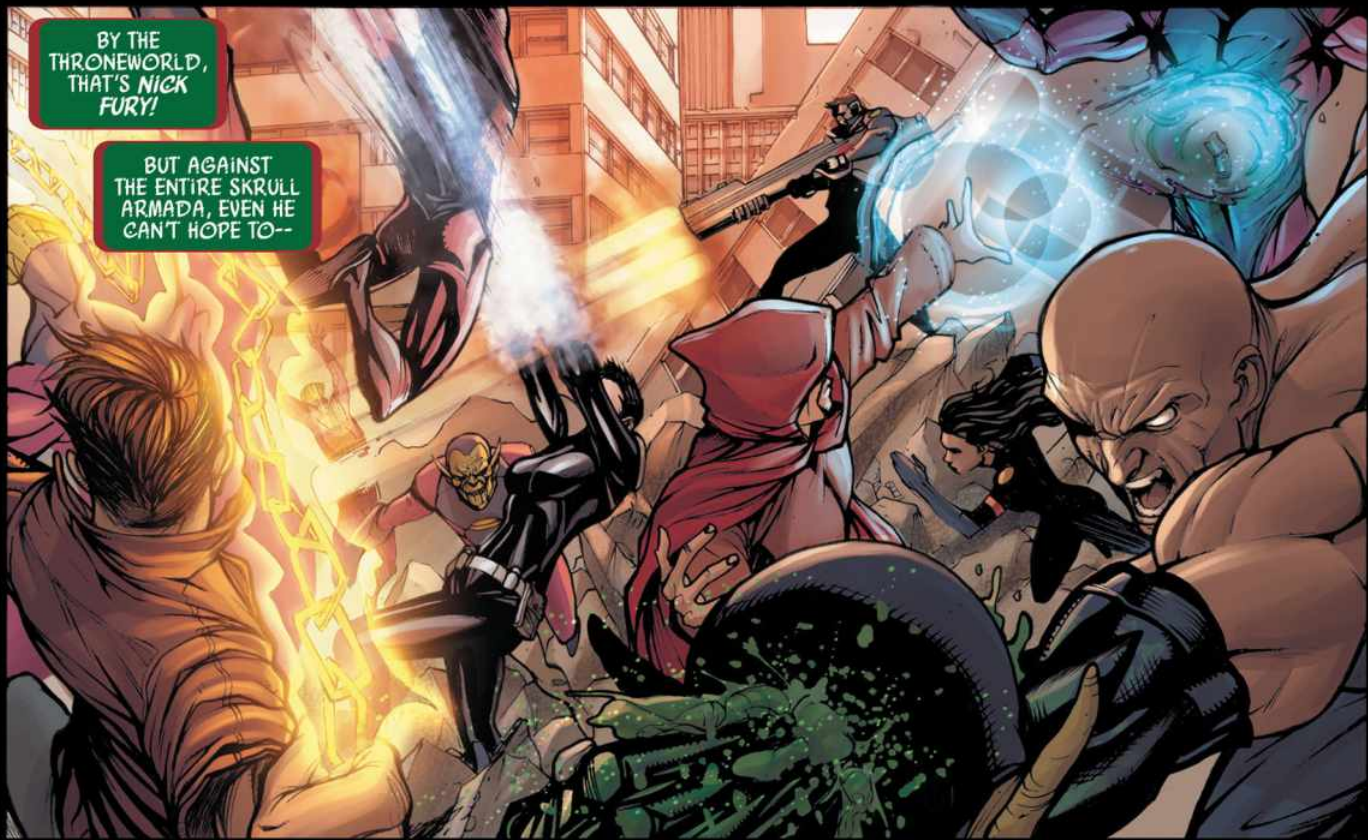
I COULD SAVE MYSELF... REVERT TO SKRULL FORM AND JOIN MY PEOPLE. PRETEND I WAS A SLEEPER AGENT...



EITHER WAY, I'LL REVERT WHEN THEY KILL ME. THEN THEY'LL KNOW I BETRAYED THEM. MY ENTIRE BLOODLINE WILL BE SHAMED.

BUT IF I LIVE WHILE MY TEAMMATES DIE...THE ONLY SHAME WILL BE MY OWN.





BY THE
THRONEWORLD,
THAT'S NICK
FURY!

BUT AGAINST
THE ENTIRE SKRULL
ARMADA, EVEN HE
CAN'T HOPE TO--

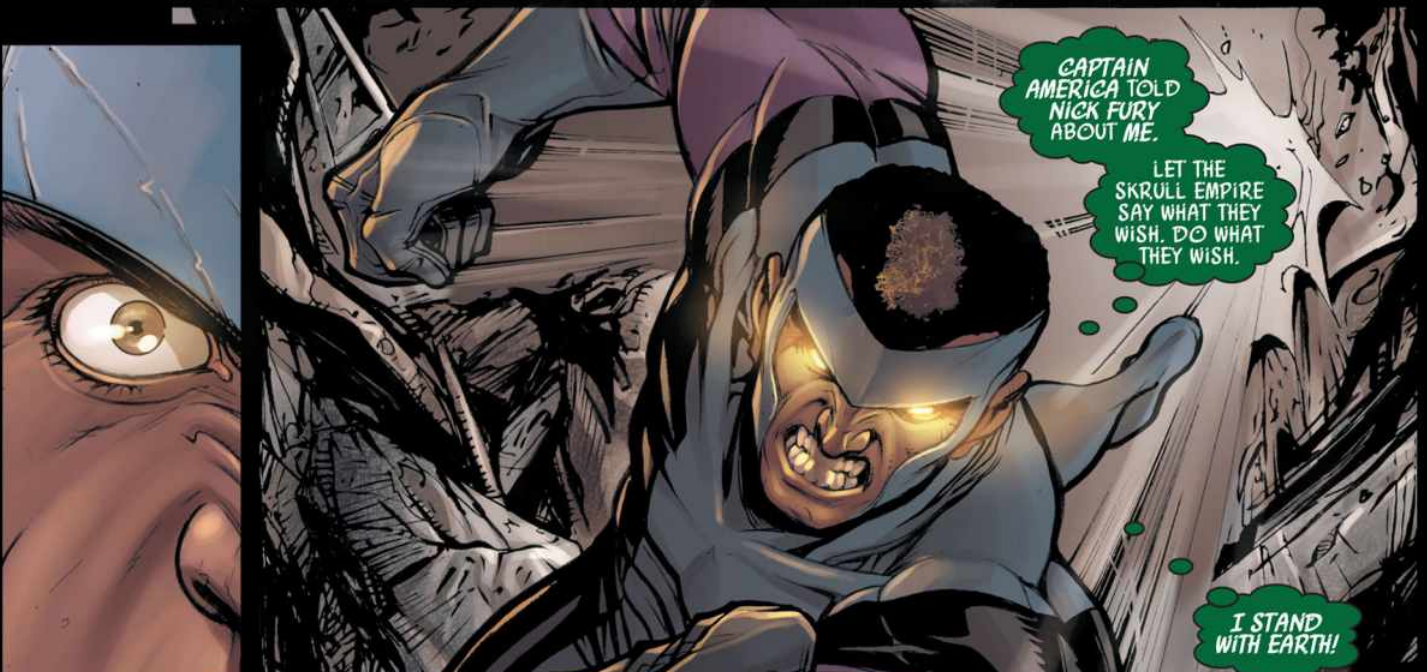


YOU'RE
CRUSADER,
RIGHT?

YOU...
KNOW
ME?

CAP
BRIEFED
ME ON YOU.
SAID YOU PUT
THAT SKRULL PUNK
TITANNUS IN
HIS PLACE.

ON YOUR
FEET, SOLDIER.
WE CAN USE
A MAN LIKE
YOU.

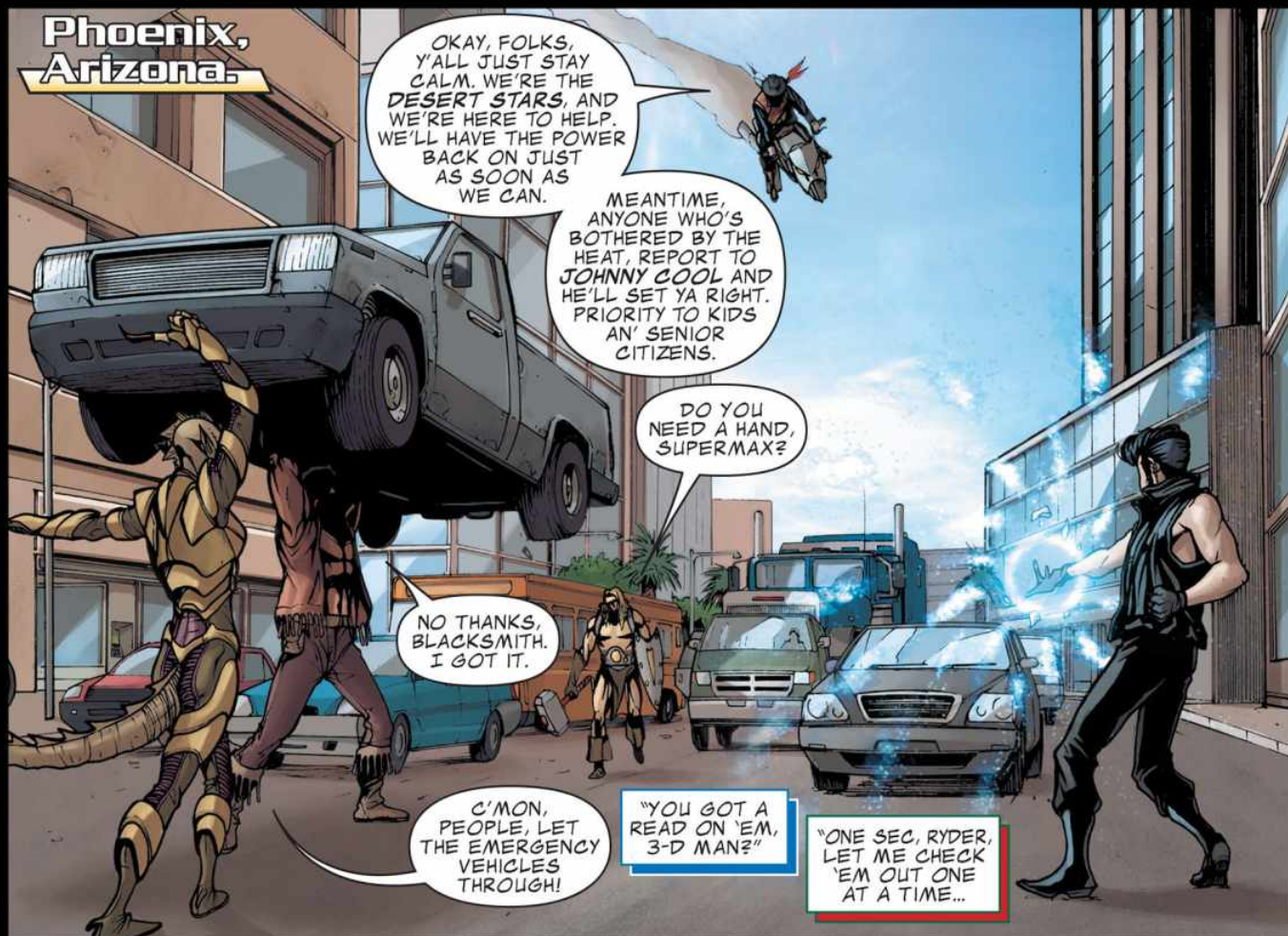


CAPTAIN
AMERICA TOLD
NICK FURY
ABOUT ME.

LET THE
SKRULL EMPIRE
SAY WHAT THEY
WISH. DO WHAT
THEY WISH.

I STAND
WITH EARTH!

Phoenix, Arizona



"TWO-GUN KID. TEAM LEADER. CHECK.



"JOHNNY COOL. COLD POWERS. CHECK.



"SUPERMAX. STRONG GUY AND SIZE CHANGER. HE'S CLEAN..



"KOMODO... GOOD. THAT WOULD'VE BEEN WEIRD. WE USED TO WORK TOGETHER.



"HOLD UP! THAT GUY, 'BLACKSMITH.' HE'S ONE. HE'S A SKRULL!"



"YOU SURE, DELROY?"

"RIDGED CHIN. POINTY EARS. PUKE GREEN. YET HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NOT A SKRULL!"











Camp Hammond



ZONE

